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The Truth of Africa

AGRICULTURAL—MINERAL

A Short History of the present conditions of Central and South Africa. Its mountains, rivers, lakes, climate and climatic changes in all sections.

BY

H. L. SCOTT

OAKLAND, CAL.

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INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet is intended to show particularly the advantages which other countries, and especially South Africa, offer to the emigrant. Life is not so easy in the United States but that one may consider whether other countries do not in some respects offer better opportunities.

During the extent of my travels I have paid particular attention to the advantages presented for agricultural pursuits in the various countries in which I have resided and in none have I found the great promise which South Africa holds out to the industrious. A great part of this little work is therefore taken up with references to the parts of Africa best suited to farming and stock raising. I have attempted to show in some degree the quality of the soil, the climate and the water resources.

I have been a planter in the United States and in South Africa. I have also worked on farms in various parts of Australia and sugar plantations in the South Seas.

I therefore present this pamphlet in the hope that it may be found of some use to the reader.

HORATIO L. SCOTT,
Oakland, Cal.

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GENERAL REMARKS

The great continent of Africa, which is only just now beginning to be thrown open for the enterprise and commercial industry of the twentieth century, is about 11,000,000 square miles in area. Its population is roughly estimated at 200,000,000. It has lain dormant so long that it seems impossible to consider that it is really awaking.

The development of the Congo region is perhaps the most striking proof of the development of the internal resources of Africa. Dutch, French and Belgian trading companies have established about twenty stations on the upper river between Stanley Pools and Stanley Falls. There is a flourishing Dutch station at Stanley Falls, 1300 miles up the river. Several steamers, the property of these companies, ply up and down the Congo river. Large ferries are being made for the convenience of caravans, and the small streams are being bridged. No one ever imagined that the Congo river trade would advance with the strides that it is now making, and it must be remembered that all these evidences of prosperity arise from trading with the natives only

When we come to consider the actual advance made in the better colonized and more civilized portions of the country the facts are staggering. The development of the mineral resources has brought every other develop-

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ment in its train. Shipyards, railways and all the plants for the carrying on of great enterprises are fast coming into being, and a railroad to run from the extreme north to the farthest south is only a question of a short time. This road will run through a beautiful, fertile and well watered country, most of which is now known as Rhodesia. This district is situated, roughly speaking, between latitude 16 North and 22 South; and longitude 20 West and 33 East.

The largest part of the extent of the country is from 3,500 to 5,000 feet above the sea level. High lying parts, like the Transvaal, have a climate which is suitable to all settlers from the temperate regions. The air is clear and invigorating, and although the days are hot with a heat which is, however, strengthening rather than debilitating, the nights both in winter and summer are delightfully cool. There are no such nights anywhere as one gets in South Africa. A light easterly breeze blows all day from the early morning and subsides again at nightfall. On the high plateau which reaches from Buluwayo to Salisbury and across to Manicaland the thermometer generally registers from 80 to 90 degrees in the shade. This sounds very uninviting, but, as a matter of fact, unless there happens to be an atmospheric depression, it is seldom felt. There are sometimes rapid changes of temperature. I have known a thermometer to show a variation of twenty degrees in a few hours, but my experience leads me to the conclusion that the extremes are not so great as in some parts of the United

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States, or even in California. The climate of Rhodesia itself is certainly more temperate and less liable to sudden changes.

The soil throughout the greater part of South Africa is dark and rich, and well adapted to all kinds of cereals. Corn, pumpkins, beans, potatoes and tobacco thrive well. In my opinion fruit would grow well throughout the northern portion of South Africa. I have successfully grafted tame fruits on wild fruit trees there. My experiments in the direction of fruit culture in South Africa have been almost entirely successful, and I have complete faith in the establishment of a high profitable fruit industry in that country.

Fruit raising and farming are still in their infancy. The cultivation of the soil has received little or no attention from migrants who go to Africa to seek gold or diamonds, or to trade with the natives, and give no attention to the more solid but less exciting pursuits of agriculture. The result is that farming is almost at a standstill, and the prices of farm produce are exceedingly high. One can practically depend upon a crop every year, and in some parts two crops may be usually realized. The acreage every year is diminishing in extent, for many of the natives who used to farm small plots of land have been attracted by the high wages offered in the mines, and the prices of farm produce are censequently continually on the rise.

It must not be imagined, however, that there are no drawbacks to farming in South Africa. Occasionally

great swarms of locusts cover the whole face of the country and destroy all the cereals for many miles. It therefore is a better policy to take up with some crop which is exempt from locusts—such a crop is tobacco. This crop is never troubled with pests of any sort.

I have every confidence in the cultivation of tobacco; it can be made exceedingly profitable. The tobacco grown in South Africa is of a very fine quality. If it were to receive anything like the care and attention to its culture, which is expended upon it in other parts of the world, I am sure that it would excel the products of other regions in fineness and in delicacy. The most promising of all crops in South Africa, in my estimation, is the tobacco crop. The climatic conditions favor its growth in every respect.

The question of rainfall is naturally a serious matter when considering the adaptability of a country for the purposes of cultivation. The rainy season and the warm season are found together. This season begins, generally speaking, about November and ends in March.

In Rhodesia, the rainfall varies from 14½ inches to about 45 inches in a season. Vegetation grows with almost extraordinary rapidity and to a degree which is seldom found elsewhere. I have seen grass grow to the height of between five and six feet. If there is any unhealthy season in South Africa, it is the rainy season. The districts to which the term unhealthy can be applied are few in number and are to be found in the low, marshy lands. Where the vegetation is very thick in the marshy

districts, it decomposes, and thus gives off gases which tend to the propagation of malaria. Where the low places have been cultivated and the marshes reclaimed and planted, the fever disappears and these districts lose their bad reputation for unhealthiness.

The best districts are: Cape Colony, the Orange River Colony, the Transvaal and Bechuanaland. In all these colonies the climate is healthy and mild. In the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal the climate is a little cold, owing to their elevation. They have an altitude of about 4,500 feet above the sea level. In all these districts the land is exceedingly adaptable for stock raising and farming purposes. There are several large rivers with abundance of water, which could be utilized for irrigating great tracts of country. In some places it would be necessary to raise the water by pumping; in other cases ditches might be dug.

In the northeastern parts of Bechuanaland, along the Limpopo river, vast tracts of uncultivated land lie, waiting the agriculturist to convert them into waving fields of rich and valuable grain. Many fine and promising tracts of land lie along the route of the proposed line of railway from the Cape to Cairo. I have traveled for hundreds of miles over the proposed route and have seen beautiful valleys and water courses, whose only inhabitants were wild beasts and innumerable flocks of wild fowl. They lie there, smiling, in the sun, full of the promise of fertility, asking for the hand of man to cultivate them. Many of these valleys are in districts

7,000 feet above the sea level, and they are accordingly very healthy and the climate exceedingly mild.

Of course, the existence of such places cannot be kept secret and already many people from foreign countries are going to Africa and penetrating the interior. They are settling down and making comfortable homes along the proposed line of railroad. The main idea of this railroad enterprise is to tap the resources of Central Africa and to obtain laborers for the great mines of the Rand.

For mining work native labor is preferred to all other. Native labor is very scarce in Cape Colony, because so many of the native people have homes and farms and small businesses of their own. They are also employed by the white inhabitants as domestic servants, and by the Government in the Postal, Telegraph and Railroad Departments. For cheaper labor, therefore, the agents of the great mining companies must go into the interior. This question of obtaining sufficient native labor is at present almost incapable of solution, because the journey into the interior involves much time and considerable hardship. As soon as the railroad is built, however, these difficulties will vanish. The road into the midst of a teeming native population will then lay wide open and the almost inexhaustible resources of labor in the native races will be tapped and exploited for the benefit of the commercial speculators on the Rand. However one may lament the break-up of the native population, the result will nevertheless be accomplished, and the native races of the African jungles will, by their

labor, minister to the comfort and wealth of thousands of investors in Europe and America.

Commercial interests in Africa have thus early assumed considerable importance. The Congo region, to which reference has already been made, is particularly rich and is adding to its value continually. French, Dutch and Belgians are engaged in active rivalry and the country is filled with their trading stations. The Dutch alone have at least five steamers on the Upper Congo. The value of the exchanges with the native tribes must be very considerable, or we should not witness this struggle to obtain trade. This strenuous rivalry speaks well for the resources of the Congo region. And it must be remembered that these resources are only in their infancy and obtained by the crude methods naturally employed by the natives.

These facts do not escape the eye of the European statesman and they are, consequently, engaged in a struggle to obtain more and more African territory for the purposes of colonization. Protectorates are being established everywhere, and vast tracts pass into the hands of the European Foreign Offices. Native territory has consequently been distributed with such industry that it can only be a very short time before nothing will remain in the hands of the native people. One of the pioneers of Matabeleland says:

"The possibilities of this great country of ours are incalculable. It will be wonderful if Rhodesia does not uphold the reputation of South Africa as being a land of

surprises and latent wealth. The colony produces diamond mines and wool. The Free State also produces wool, horses and diamonds. Namaqualand produces copper; Basuto land produces grain and horses; Natal produces coal, sugar and tea; the Transvaal has its far-famed gold mines. Surely Rhodesia, with a territory almost as vast as all these put together, will produce something. Coal we have here in abundance and of a very good quality. The principal beds are situated to the south of the Zambesi river, about 180 miles from Bulawayo. Within the last few years good coal has been found along the line of the railway, not many miles from Palapye. If this, as we anticipate, turns out well, it will be a source of supply for Tati and all the surrounding country, as well as for the stations along the line to the north and as far south as Kimberley, which itself will be a large consumer. The coal is an important factor in the economical working of gold mines in a country like this, where we have no water power for motive purposes. The consumption of coal will be great. The mines may be able to go on for a few years using wood for fuel, but wood, plentiful as it is in certain parts will soon get exhausted, and then we must fall back on the indispensable coal. To the north and west of Bulawayo there are timber forests which stretch over hundreds of miles of country. These contain a hard grained native teak. The wood is capable of taking a beautiful mahogany polish, and furniture made from it is equal to the best imported material of the same nature,

if not better. The market in South Africa, let alone Europe, when it becomes generally known, should be unlimited.

Salt pans of great extent exist on our southwestern side, and steps will presently be taken to open them up. To the north, besides the gold, it is known that there are extensive copper mines, which are said to contain an unlimited quantity of almost pure copper. Indications of petroleum have been found in two or three parts of the country, but the ground has not been thoroughly prospected. There are a hundred and one other things which the country is known to produce, but we must leave them alone for the present. To go into the agricultural and stock raising possibilities of South Africa would require a volume of matter, which I cannot presently supply. Suffice it to say that the country is eminently adapted for the production of all sorts of grains and fruits.

"In most parts of South Africa, sickness is general among horses in the wet season—much more so than in the dry season in the northern part of South Africa. Mules and donkeys seem to stand the sick season better than the horses. Horses that are kept on the highlands stand the sickness better than those that are kept on the lowlands."

As in all other countries, sickness will disappear in Africa to a great degree before the advance of civilization. The best animals for farm and transport use are oxen, as they are satisfied with a diet of grass. Of the

horses, however, those that are raised in Basuto land and the Orange River Colony, suffer but slightly from sickness.

TOWNS

The most important towns on the south and southeast coast are: Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East, London. All these are in Cape Colony. In Natal, we find the town of Durban. These are all seaport towns and have large and growing populations. Steam railways run from each of these towns to the smaller ones in the interior Each town has its own system of electric roads, and each is fully provided with all the conveniences and comforts which may be expected from towns of their size.

THE TRANSKEI, A TYPICAL DISTRICT

I have already referred to the opportunities for agriculture and stock raising which exist in such large numbers all through South Africa. The case of the Transkei, however, is now cited as a fair sample of the most promising districts. It is by no means an isolated case, it is really typical of many such.

There is no intention on the part of the writer to boom the places, but as I have set out on the task of laying the truth about South Africa before you, it is only just that you should learn of these places at first hand.

An old resident, speaking of the Transkei, which is in the northeastern part of Cape Colony, writes:

ENTHLAMBI, NEAR BUTTERWORTH, TRANSKEI.

April 8, 1899.

SIR:

As one who has resided over twenty years in these parts, I am convinced that the people of the Colony proper know little or nothing of this portion of the country, looking upon it as an outlandish place, inhabited by thousands of half savages. Stray visitors through this marvelous country are simply astonished, and, as they journey, become actually astounded at its beauty, its fertility, its richness in everything agricultural—a land truly flowing with milk and honey. Yet it is so little known to practical, hard working farmers, striving to make ends meet—a poor and hard-earned living. Look at the picture on this side. The black pastoralist with his flocks thriving and increasing under the rudest care —behold him reaping where he can scarcely be said to have sown, his agricultural attempts being simplicity in the extreme. He scatters the seed and then scratches the earth over in the roughest possible manner, yet reaping large crops, far beyond his own needs and flooding the colonial markets with grain, living a life of ease and contentment. Probably in no other part of the world could such a life be possible. Read what Professor Hahn says to the Farmers' Conference at the late Grahamstown Exhibition: "A greater contrast in the general aspect of the two countries can hardly be con-

ceived—the one a stony desert with a scanty vegetation, dry and uncertain climate, depending on irrigation from boring and dam constructing chiefly for its agricultural prospects. There across is Kei, a beautiful grass covered and wooded valley, with plenty of water—a veritable Garden of Eden—which, unfortunately, is very little known in the Colony. Grain of all kinds, vegetables, tobacco, hemp, flax, cotton, coffee, pineapples, trees of every kind (useful and ornamental) flourish and grow profusely, needing no expensive irrigation. The Enthlambi valley has long been known to many for its richness of soil and as a grand grazing run for cattle, sheep, goats and horses.

Yours, etc.,

OESIS.

The above I repeat is not quoted as an advertisement; it is simply to show that places of exceedingly great fertility exist in South Africa. The history of the recent war has given the great mass of people more information respecting the appearance and climate of South Africa than they had hitherto possessed, or than they would have been likely to gain in a lifetime under ordinary conditions. But such information has come in a way that is not altogether satisfactory. There has been too much picturesque writing for the truth to have been altogether stated. The glamor of the excitement of war and the consequent exaggeration in the description of the country has tended to the depicting of the natural disadvantages in more or less sombre colors. The ordinary reader is convinced that South Africa is a hot, sterile

plain or rolling prairie, and that it possesses no attractions for the ordinary man. He thinks it is a burning district, devoid of shade, the corrugated iron roofs of whose houses reflect the heat back from their inhospitable and poverty-stricken walls.

It is to correct such an impression that I have mentioned Transkei. There is nothing in which Transkei excels many other places, the names of which are unknown outside their immediate neighborhood. In my travels, I have met in many places in many parts of Africa spots that compare very well with the description of Transkei, as I have just quoted it. In all these places there is the same luxuriance of vegetation, the same facility of production, the same beauty of scenery and the same charm of climate and of life. Nowhere else in the world has it been my fortune to see such places; nowhere else in the world has such a longing possessed me to cease my wanderings and settle down to enjoy life and the fortune which appears to spring spontaneously from the soil. Pondoland, East Griqualand and Natal have scores and scores of places which compare very favorably with Transkei. In Zululand, I could go to many places equally favored by nature and equally well equipped with every material for happiness. In the interior of Africa—that magic unknown land—which lies far behind mountain ranges and through deep forests, there are hidden in its recesses many such paradises. It is a libel upon the country to describe it as barren and desolate. It is like a rough shell, which, if you will

take the trouble to pierce, serves but as the shelter for the wonderful richness of the fruit within. So it is with South Africa. The dreary veldt, the barren mountains, the dry plains are but the husk of the country; within is the beauty, the prosperity and the peace of places like Transkei. Railroads are running through some of these districts already. In a few years they will all be traversed by the railroad.

In these fertile districts, there is a possibility for all kinds of cultivation. One industry must, before long, assume considerable importance which has, up to the present, by no means received the attention which it has deserved. There is a scarcity of timber for building and kindred purposes. The mines also require great quantities of timber. It has been discovered that blue gum and black wortle trees grow very rapidly when planted in South Africa, and the growth of these trees will, before long, prove to be a very valuable industry. Fencing, and hundreds of other demands incidental to the growth of a new country, will keep up the demand for timber of the nature of which I have spoken, and the farmer who takes time by the forelock, and gets to work at the raising of paying lumber will never regret the experiment.

In fact, nearly everything that can be grown brings a fair return, and that because the demand for all agricultural products is exceeeingly unusual, since the enterprise and energy which would, under normal conditions, be devoted to agriculture and kindred pursuits, are, at

present, engaged in the search for gold and precious stones, and in crowding into the new cities in the hope that some sudden turn of the wheel of fortune may place the lucky speculator beyond the need of earning a living by work.

CENTRAL EQUATORIAL AFRICA

Central Equatorial Africa is a country which offers many inducements. This seems a curious statement to make of a land which within so short a time was really a land of mystery. All across the map of Africa was written, not very long ago, the word "unexplored." Now, the country is one which tenders the very richest rewards to the energetic and persevering. The names of Stanley and Livingstone are reminiscent of adventure and danger, of unenligtened men and savage beasts. But, such wonders are worked nowadays in a moment of time, as it were, and we are already speaking of Central Africa, as a probable place for settlement, and before very long, the whole of that great country will be dotted with homes. The land will be cultivated and the postman will be bringing letters to the inhabitants from relatives in Europe and America. More than that, before very long, there will be little towns in those districts with telegraph and telephone, electric cars and all that go to make up the features of the modern city. The inhabitants will stroll round the fountain on the plaza and listen to the music of Strauss, just as they do in my own Oakland. It is very strange to think that men will

grow up with a pride of citizenship in Central Africa—that the time will come, and not be very long coming, when one shall say with a touch of pride, that he is a native Central African, just as people now pride themselves on being native New Zealanders and native Californians. Such, however, will be the working of destiny, and I cannot imagine a fairer nor a brighter country to claim as one's own.

It is a high plateau, healthy and invigorating, with all that the best of climate and the most fruitful of soils can offer in the direction of human happiness. The scenery is surpassingly beautiful. There are chains of great lakes, which sparkle in the sun like the sea itself; lakes beside which those of Michigan are almost small. The rivers abound and many of them are very large and navigable for miles and miles. The means of communication afforded by these rivers and lakes are almost perfect. No irrigation is required; nature herself provides everything that is needed. The reader will say that I am prejudiced in favor of Central Africa, and, frankly, I am. But I have no axe to grind. I describe just the impressions which the country made upon me, as I hunted and traded through it. As for the lakes and rivers, I have steered my pioneer boat upon them; I have hunted in the forests; I have ridden through the beautiful, deserted valleys, and I have supped and slept among people who have all the luxuries of life, as far as their simple tastes require luxuries, without any of the strenuous toil, which our laborers have to put forth to

gain even a scanty subsistence. The wealth of the native, as I have said before, is the best proof of the natural productiveness of the soil. He has all that can satisfy his elementary needs, and, as we have seen, is able to make trading with him, on the part of the European, profitable and extensive. It may be imagined, therefore, that the wealth which is possible of extraction from the country by those skilled in modern methods, energetically and skillfully applied, must be very large. These facts cannot possibly escape public notice, and as soon as the opportunity comes, Equatorial Africa will be invaded by a host of men, anxious for a first choice of the rich districts. It is only waiting for the railroad to open. When the railroad is through, the door, which hides the magic treasures of Equatorial Africa from the knowledge of the world, will be unlocked, and its wonderful wealth will be open for the sight of the nations. And this cannot be very long. It is a very few years since Khartoum was a distant town on the Nile, the capital of a powerful native race. It seems but yesterday since the story of Gordon's relief column and its failure fascinated and horrified the civilized world, and yet today Khartoum is a growing and prosperous city, the centre of a great trade, a city which is as accessible as New York, and to which the excursion agents run regular excursions. Events move so rapidly and are so full of significance that it is nonsense to place any bounds upon the possibilities of advance. Equatorial Africa will, before long, be a well recognized place for

immigration, and will find a place in the world's market for the disposition of its products. Even now in Africa the movement has begun. Long trains of wagons, moving slowly along, drawn by oxen, are tending, step by step and mile by mile, to these regions. Already the whisper of the riches of the interior has penetrated to the colonies, and those adventurous spirits, who are ever eager and alert for the newest opportunities, are already on the move and are bending their course along the hard, long trail, which leads into the great interor. Month after month they will be on the march; month after month the oxen will be inspanned in the morning and outspanned again at night. They will crop the coarse grass on the veldt, and settle down to sleep under the wonderful African sky. The little children, which started as babies in the great caravan, will grow in the beautiful fresh air with every mile of the journey, and before the end of it is reached, will be fine and sturdy specimens of the race with which the new continent is to be peopled. Then, one day, they will come to a beautiful lake in the interior, and they will unharness their beasts for good, and the smoke of the settlement will rise into the clear, pure air. Along the shores of these lakes there are untold miles of the most beautiful meadow land, such land as is seldom seen. Here there is water and grass for millions of cattle and the natural home of a pastoral and stock raising people. Even now the natives drive their herds along the lakes and water their stock at the brim of the fresh water ocean.

Central Africa has lain hidden for so long for two reasons: the absence of harbors and the want of rivers. There are many rivers of great extent and volume of water. They, however, are not proportionate to the size of the country, and they do not offer any opportunity for navigation purposes from the outside. The course of some of the finest rivers is impeded at the lower course by rapids, which cause obstruction and prevent a free access to the interior.

RIVERS OF CENTRAL AFRICA

Following are the length and drainage area of some of the larger rivers of Central Africa: The Nile runs through Central Africa for about 4020 miles; the Congo waters the country for a distance of 2883 miles; the Zambesi is about 880 miles long; the Senegal is about 980 miles long. These rivers are such as are well known at the present time and do not form, by any means, a complete or accurate list. There are, necessarily, many more rivers and streams which are neither investigated nor discovered and which have not even been examined with regard to their capacities for carrying freight or for manufacturing purposes. The rivers of Africa are, as yet, comparatively unknown—their extent is by no means thoroughly settled. Perhaps the best guide to the water facilities of a country is a man who is thoroughly competent to judge, and who has traversed the country with a purpose, keeping an observant eye on the various possibilities of the land through which he passes, who knows the advantages of a good water supply and is

able to detect deficiency in that respect. The writer of this claims to be such a man. He has traveled through too many countries not to have acquired the capacity of measuring the potentialities of the various lands through which he goes. After close and accurate observation by actual personal experience, I am convinced of the fact that the water supply of Equatorial Africa will meet all the needs of the settler, and will, morover, furnish many good opportunities for internal commerce and communication between different parts of the country, as well as provide the motive power for the making of electricity and the working of machinery, such as is now used in the civilized and settled districts of the modern world.

LAKES OF CENTRAL AFRICA

Reference has already been made to the size and beauty of most of the lakes of Central Africa. It is a country which possesses many and beautiful stretches of fresh water. Conspicuous among these are: Victoria Nyanza, which has an area of 32,160 square miles; Nyassa covers an area of 18,000 square miles; Cad, 13,149 square miles and Tanganyika, 12,140 square miles. Albert Nyanza is 1,780 square miles in extent and the beautiful little lake of Ngami is 297 square miles in area. Of these lakes it must be said, as in the case of the rivers, that the facts given are by no means final. Much exploration and investigation have yet to be carried on before we arrive at anything like accuracy in estimating

the magnitude and the resources of the Central African water system. What has been given is an approximation more or less accurate, of such of the lakes as have been explored, and concerning which certain data which can be fairly well relied upon, have been collected.

From this, however, it may be seen that there is very little probability of any lack of water. This water has been utilized before for irrigation purposes and there is no reason why it should not again be put to the same uses. Many ditches are found now filled with sand, but which were evidently, some time or other, in the more remote past, irrigation ditches. The ancient occupants of this country, whoever they may have been, evidently had some comprehension of the uses of irrigation and some way of handling the water for purposes of cultivation. There are many signs that the interior was at one time inhabited by a race of superior culture and considerable efficiency in some of the arts. The granite buildings, the ruins of which are frequently discovered, are of tremendous size. The plan of their construction, as far as can be determined, from the size of the stones and the manner in which they have been laid, shows much architectural skill and a degree of power over the handling of heavy and bulky masses of stone, which is really remarkable, considering the machinery, which they must have been able to bring to their aid. There is no lack of artistic finish, either, about the buildings. The stones are beautifully carved and intricate, and in some respects, really artistic designs show that the work was carried

out by a race which was capable of some degree of artistic feeling and was probably possessed of a very considerable degree of refinement and culture.

Among the remains of a civilization, now long passed, may be mentioned the old gold mines which are frequently found. At least, it is generally supposed, that they were gold mines, though no positive proof is forthcoming upon that score. It is said that these mines were worked by the slaves of King Solomon, and that this is the Ophir which is mentioned in the scriptures as being the place which supplied to him a large portion of his gold used in the ornamentation of the sacred places. However, this may be, there does not seem any reason to set any particular date for this mining, and there is certainly no very cogent reason to ascribe the work to the artisans of the great Hebrew king. On the other hand, it does not appear unlikely that the Arabs came down from the north in search of gold and opened up the mines. They would work them with their slaves and would form a powerful colonization party. To the south and all around them, however, lay the native tribes, strong and fierce, and the time may easily have come when the attacks of these tribes would be sufficiently vigorous to cause the abandonment of the work by the Arabs. This must have happened a very long period of time ago and possibly in the days of King Solomon, but of this we have no knowledge.

In the latter part of the century just passed when the Europeans went into Mashonaland, they found

natives at work mining. The Portugese undoubtedly carried on an exchange with the natives for gold, and this gold must have been mined and smelted by the natives. Whether they evolved the production of gold out of their own experience, and found its utility as a matter of tribal knowledge, cannot be stated. It hardly appears probable that this was so; it seems more likely that they learned it from the outside.

The buildings show specimens of pottery with images of birds and beasts adorning it. This is a mark of higher civilization than we find at present in these districts. The ability to make pottery is a recognized proof that a people has attained a certain footing in the march of progress which may entitle them to be considered as being directly on the road to what is termed civilization. Either the peoples of this district have retrograded or they must have derived their art from some outside source. What makes this appear all the more likely is the fact that large quantities of gold beads and chains are found in two or three places and show a degree of art which is not often, or ever, attained among savage people. It is evident, at all events, that gold mining was, at one time, a very important industry in the district in question, and that it has been practically abandoned. Perhaps the invaders broke up their strongholds and departed when they had all the gold which they were able to get by the use of the crude implements which they possessed. It is astonishing, when we examine these implements, to understand how they managed to extract the tremendous quantities

of quartz, which we find piled up in heaps around the old workings. It seems that when they got to a hard reef they proceeded to soften it by means of fire, which they built upon the exposed portion of the reef. They then dug down. As they could not go beyond the water level, for, of course, they had no means of contending with the water, only the surface of the reef was touched. The marks of the fires, which they built to soften the reef, are visible in many of the old workings. The extraction of gold could not have been a paying enterprise, as we understand it. The quartz was all crushed by hand between stones and the sand was then carried to the nearest water and carefully washed in a wooden or earthenware dish. Large numbers of the old stones and mortars used by them are still to be found lying about the country in various places.

It is evident that the mineral resources of Central Africa are by no means gauged, and that there ought to be many chances for the miner and the prospector. This pamphlet, however, does not undertake to deal with those aspects of South African life, but devotes itself exclusively to the country, as viewed from the standpoint of the practical agriculturalist. If it were intended to examine the mineral resources and the capabilities of the country for the production of the precious metals, the scope of the work would have to be greatly extended.

The writer is a firm believer that the happiest life is, after all, the agricultural. That the unhealthy excitement and the uncertainty of the miner's life do not tend

to ultimate happiness, even when the efforts to gain wealth have been crowned with success, as is the experience of the writer, and in how few instances do they even approximate to success. The best life and the most free from worries of all description is that of the farmer. Nowhere can the farmer enjoy life with greater zest than in Central Africa. Nowhere can he attain the advantages of climate, of productive soil and of promise for the future as he can there.

It is hard to drop the subject of Central Africa—I confess to being an enthusiast about it. Many and many times I lie in bed, thinking of the glorious excursions through that beautiful district. I can see, over and over again, the wonderful beauty of the valleys through which I passed; I can see the happy native kraals with their freedom from care and their prosperity; I can see the great fertile places untilled and calling for the presence of man and joy of production, and I make up my mind to go there again before I finish my work on this side. It lingers in the mind as beautiful scenery always does and makes a joy of its own.

It will be a happy day when the railroad goes through the districts with its burden of eager and optimistic settlers and if one may venture upon a prophesy, never were settlers more satisfied with their lot than they will be who take possession of the valleys and fields of Central Africa.

This consideration of my wanderings in Central Africa brings me to the recollection of travels elsewhere,

particularly in Australia, and I had perhaps just as well deal with them here as at any other time.

AUSTRALIA

It was in the early eighties that I went to Australia. I had the gold fever very badly, and I was as keen after the yellow metal as anyone ever was. That was before South Africa. Experience and common sense had put new ideas into my head and I had discovered that there was something better in life than burrowing all the time with one's head in the hole on the off-chance of making a stake, a stake which, by the way, is very seldom materialized. A great gold excitement had struck one of the southern colonies, and, like thousands of others, I started headlong for the fields. Then I set to work at the usual game, digging prospect holes everywhere. They were, as a fact, never anything but prospect holes, for I was not, by any means, successful as a miner.

The desire for farming possessed me very strongly in spite of my mining experience and I watched the possibilities of the country from the agricultural standpoint very closely as I passed through, and I saw many beautiful farms and orchards and fields of rich waving grain.

There is little doubt of the prosperity of the average Australian farmer. His farm is kept in good order. He has, as the Englishman has everywhere, a comfortable house and he is fairly well equipped with the world's goods. He works very hard, however, and is thrifty, and his success may be fairly ascribed to these qualities.

In many parts of the country the land is heavily timbered. The soil is of a dark brown color and very rich in most places. But there is one difficulty that stands like a shadow over Australian farming; that is the absence of water. It is the greatest obstacle to the development of Australia, that there is no steady supply of water, upon which reliance can be placed without resorting to irrigation. Great irrigation works have been constructed, however, and have redeemed great districts, so that the outlook is more promising than it was, but still the creation of great works necessitates a great company behind them. Such irrigated land has, however, been frequently found to possess many advantages for cultivation, and comfortable fortunes have been made by farming it.

The price of land is not extortionate. Farming lands cost from five to twenty-five dollars an acre. The farmers find no difficulty in getting a market for their produce and the chances of exportation increase every year. It is one of the most striking facts, in connection with the enterprise of the Englishman, that the commodities of Australia in the way of perishable farm produce and even dairy produce and fruit command a ready sale in the British markets. This comes partly from the promptness which they are despatched and partly from the painstaking skill with which the commodities are packed, so as to retain their freshness and flavor. The canning and refrigerating business is a staple industry of the Colonies. Thousands of carcasses of sheep and rabbits are cut up

and frozen and shipped to foreign countries. The Australians have even turned their plague of rabbits to practical account, and sell them by the million to the home population.

Mountainous and desert regions form a greater part of the Australian continent. This area is about 2,970,000 square miles. The highest mountain is 7,500 feet high and is known as Mount Kosciusko. The only great river is the Murray, which is 1,550 miles long and drains an area of 270,000 square miles. Several considerable streams empty themselves into the Gulf of Carpentaria, while those flowing to the Pacific Ocean on the east and to the Indian Ocean on the west are of considerable importance. There are several inland salt lakes, which constitute a peculiar feature of the country.

It is not difficult to preempt land, as the same laws, practically, are in force as in the United States. The people are exceedingly kind to strangers and of a most hospitable and generous nature. The same opinion may be expressed about the New Zealanders and the Tasmanians. In fact, the geniality of the Australasians is most marked, and that, coupled with my African experiences, leads me to consider this a marked characteristic of the British colonists wherever they may be found. Their entire freedom from any prejudice against the colored people is one of the most striking, and, at the same time, one of the most charming of their traits. A man goes at his value in the Colonies, independent of his nationality. Good conduct and industry are all that

is required to establish a standing, and the people that chose a Hindoo to represent one of their great London constituencies will never let the color of one of their subjects be a bar to the rise of that subject.

Australia is much noted for its sheep. Their fatness and the fineness of their wool have won them an international reputation. One-fourth of all the sheep in the world are raised in Australia. Horses also are reared in great numbers and there is a tremendous export of them to India annually.

Such are a few unsatisfactory and general statements about this great Australian continent, which is now organized into one great Federation, but which preserves, to a wonderful degree, its loyalty and affection to the British Empire, and which sends its sons to battle for the old country for the sake of the old association and not for any benefit of its own. This is a wonderful fact, one of the most striking in modern history and one that will be pointed to with wonder by the future, how an Empire, unable to maintain her sons at home, yet retained their affection when they went many thousands of miles under new conditions and amid fresh surroundings, how these sons made a great country for themselves at the ends of the world, and still loved the name of the land from whence they had come, so that they and their children called it home, and they sent their children to fight for it as their own children had done. Such love and constancy of peoples has been seldom seen—it is a credit to the motherland and to the children whom she

has raised. Remembering this and that the motto of the Australian colonists is—"Advance Australia"—we can leave them in the full faith that they have a great and prosperous career before them, and that whoever chooses to throw in his lot with them will not make a mistake. They have already taught the world much in the direction of social legislation and they will have other lessons of much significance to the world in general, of which to teach. In calling at Australia on the way to South Africa, one can leave the southern continent behind and return again to the latter country.

CLIMATE OF SOUTH AFRICA

There are not any meteorological reports on South Africa. This is not surprising when we consider the shortness of time which has elapsed since the colonization of that country began, and the absence of a service approaching in accuracy the meteorological department of the United States. It appears, however, as might be expected, that the temperature of the coast districts is more equable than that of the plain. The mean daily range between the maximum and the minimum readings for the coast is only 15½ degrees. At Kimberley and Bloemfontein it is nearly double that. On the coast west of Durban the mean maximum for the month seldom reaches 80 degrees, whilst in Kimberley it frequently reaches 90 degrees. We may look at the question of emigration to South Africa from many standpoints, but

there can be but one opinion upon it from the standpoint of health. For those who are physically weak and are yet obliged to earn a living, South Africa is the very best place in the world. It is impossible for the invalid to go to a health resort in this country or in Europe, generally speaking, because of the difficulty in obtaining employment, but South Africa is one great health resort as far as the sick are concerned—that is, its climatic effects are so beneficial that it has all the advantages of the best health resorts, and combines with them the possibility of making a living.

The varying elevation gives great diversity of climate and consequently of rainfall, hence there is opportunity for a great variety of occupations. It is quite conceivable, for example, that the tending of sheep on the great Karroo might easily prove too strenuous an occupation for one, but such a person has an almost infinity of callings to draw from, and he may devote himself to semi-tropical pursuits, as the growing of tea or sugar on the Natal coast. I know of no country which offers the same selection and administers in the same way to the comfort or luxury required by the individual appetite.

Of course, it will be remembered that as South Africa lies south of the equator, the seasons are the reverse of our own. Thus, the summer extends from October to the end of March, and the winter from April to September. This, among many other things, with the news received of late from South Africa, has made the world perfectly familiar with.

THE PLATEAU

The coast plateau, which may be said to form the first step in the ascent of the continent, as it were, is about 600 feet in height and varies from a few miles in breadth to fifty. This forms the broad base of the great staircase by means of which we climb into Africa from the sea. The plateau adjoining the west coast is bounded eastward by the irregular mountains of Namaqualand and by the Olifant and Drakenstein ranges.

The south coast plateau is of much greater importance and is divided from the highlands of Southern Karroo by the Zondereine Lange Bergen, Outen-iqua and Langen Kloof Mountains. Further eastward the well-defined character of the plateau becomes less obvious, and, in some instances, where the base of the mountain is almost washed by the sea, it can be hardly said to exist. The intermediate plateau of southern and central Karroo is replaced by confined ranges of mountains and hills, which are connected by long, swelling uplands, peculiar to this part of the country. The chief characteristics of this part of the country are warmth and moisture. It is a mild and damp climate—a good climate for crops—and not a very good one for those who suffer from pulmonary complaints.

THE RAINFALL

The greatest rainfall in South Africa is experienced on Table Mountain itself. Here the fall is from 58 to 78 inches per year. The average of the whole of the cape

peninsula is 40 inches, most of it falling on the eastern side of Table Mountain. It varies, however, very considerably in places only a few miles distant. Thus, in 1888, the rainfall at Bishop's Court was 82½ inches, and at the Town Hall, Cape Town, only five miles away, only 29½ inches.

Immediately to the east of Cape Town and as far as the Knysna, there is a decrease of from 15 to 28 inches. The well wooded Knysna is itself the best wooded district of South Africa, with an average rainfall of 40 inches. When we leave the forest region for the Port Elizabeth region we find a rainfall of 21 inches. But a further rise occurs in the forest clad slopes of the Kaffrarian coastlands, the rainfall at St. Johns for 1888 being 53 inches, while at Durban the average for fourteen years has been about 30 inches.

The distribution of the rainfall is by no means a constant factor; it varies considerably at different seasons. Byfar the greater part on the coast of Cape Colony falls during the winter months, between April and September. This is very noticeably the case in the west, where the summer breeze from the southeast blows in fresh and dry from the Antarctic seas and are more inclined to take in moisture from the land than to lose it by condensation. The two hottest months are January and February, and these are almost rainless. At Cape Town, on the south coast, the average rainfall for these same two months, is two inches. The coast lands east of Port Elizabeth differ from Durban in this respect. St. Johns and other

places in its vicinity receive most of their rain in the summer, that is, at the time when the rainfall is expected in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. Here the winters are dry and clear and the summers are relieved by rains, which occasionally are rather violent in their character, but for the most part gentle and refreshing.

The percentage of humidity in the coast district of Cape Colony averages 75 per cent in the summer and 81 per cent in the winter months. It is clear from this that the coast climate is not well adapted to cases of pythisis, but it is yet exceedingly healthy, and many individuals, suffering from bronchial affections or whose blood is tainted by consumption, enjoy a degree of health in this part of Africa that they could never have had at home in England. Still, it is safer for those who are unsound and whose constitution is unsuited to a warm, dry climate, to settle further inland and to make their African home a few hundred feet above the sea level.

The humid district contains most of the important towns, most probably because it has been longer settled. These towns on the coast are Cape Town, Mossel Bay, Knyena; Port Elizabeth, Port Alfred, East London and Durban. The towns of greatest elevation in the interior of this country are Malmesbury, with an elevation of 363 feet; Paarl, 405 feet; Stellenbosch, 364 feet; Swellendam, 500 feet; Caledon, 800 feet; Riversdale, 200 feet; George, 620 feet; Humansdorp, 360 feet and Uitenhage, 170 feet.

In the southern Karroo and the warm Bokkeveldt,

north of the coast plateau, the ground rises more or less abruptly to the second plateau, which may be regarded as lying between the Ywaartbergen and the Coast Range. To the west the rise is gradual through the fertile Goudini Valley. Here are situated the towns of Worcester, at an elevation of 780 feet; Montagu, 750 feet and Robertson, 600 feet. Further eastward the vegetation and the climate partake more of the character of the Karroo, the Oustvoorn Valley and the many Kloofs to the east being generally known as the Southern Karroo. In this district the chief towns are Leadsmith, with an elevation of 1860 feet; Oudtshoorn, with an elevation of 1890 feet and Uniondale, 2222 feet. In the eastern districts the plateau is not so well marked.

In comparing the Southern Karroo climate with that of the Castland, a very great alteration is noticeable. The rainfall, except in the mountain slopes, is much less and the range of temperature is somewhat greater. The rich Goudini Valley changes to bare and uninteresting veldt as one passes along to the north. This veldt is seamed with deep gulleys, which are not visible even at a short distance. These are the terrible places which served as rifle pits in the war. Here large bodies of men could hide all unseen, and, as the enemy came within range, could pour a heavy fire upon their foes, who had no idea of their whereabouts and frequently could not even see where they lay concealed. This was a tremendous obstacle to the invading force. So deep are these gulleys that a large body of cavalry could ride in

them right across the front of the enemy without detection and make their attack at whatever part of the advance they might choose to deliver it.

These gulleys are dry and deep in the dry season, but in the wet season they are frequently roaring torrents, down which the turbid water flows in a rushing mass, laden with the mud of the veldt. Beyond the gulleys and stretching against the skyline are the masses of barren looking mountains, high and forbidding. No greater change can be imagined than from that of the fertile valley to the sterile veldt with its dry seamed surface and the grim fringe of black and barren hills. The steep sides of these hills appear to be altogether destitute of vegetation. We have climbed from a country abounding in moisture and full of all that a fertile soil and a favorable climate can produce to a district where rain seldom falls and whose exterior is forbidding in the extreme. But these valleys are by no means as barren as they appear to be. On the contrary, the soil is exceedingly rich—it requires irrigation. Once get water upon it and the appearance changes completely. It produces rich and luxuriant crops, and the preliminary work of cultivation over, well repays any investment of time or labor which may have been bestowed upon it. Not far from Worcester is a pass which is renowned all over the world for its beauty and the wonderful attractiveness of its scenery. This is Mitchell's Pass, which leads from Worcester to a small plateau known as the warm Bokkeveldt, on which stands the village of Ceres, at an

elevation of 1,493 feet. This is an exceedingly salubrious place and is a sort of sanatorium for the invalids of the towns on the coast. There is always more or less gaiety in this little place and there are few prettier or more charming resorts anywhere in the world.

It thus appears that rainfall is sufficient everywhere to insure good returns. In places where irrigation is required, the water is easy to get and easy to store. It does not require any expensive machinery and the individual farmer will be able to accomplish it by his own efforts, generally speaking, and thus avoid the dependence upon a company and the consequent semi-slavery which is usual in irrigated districts.

GREAT OR CENTRAL KARROO

The great plain of the Karroo lies beyond the Zwaartzbergen, whose peaks range from five thousand to seven thousand feet in height. For three hundred and fifty miles it runs from east to west at a level of from two to three thousand feet above the level of the sea. Its northern boundary consists of the Nieuwveldt and great Sneewwberg ranges. The highest peak of these is the Kompassberg, which reaches to an elevation of 7,800 feet.

The whole area of the Karroo is said to extend for 100,000 miles. It forms a great plateau.

It is covered with a vegetation known as the Karroo bush. No more unlikely vegetable ever existed than this. It is burnt up out of all semblance of life by the

summer heat until it is dry and brittle. But its looks belie it. It is a great deal better than its appearance would lead one to believe. It furnishes good food for millions of sheep and goats. It is the most unpromising material, with the best effective results, that exists any where, as far as my knowledge goes.

Nothing can be more dreary and forlorn looking than the great Karroo. One cannot cast the eye over the great expanse of desert without a feeling of despair. It is so solitary, so barren, so unutterably dreary, that the mind flies for relief to the stern, forbidding hills that stand at its extremities. Yet people have a great love for the Karroo. The natives there, both colored and white, think that there is nothing in the world that can compare with his beloved Karroo. It repays the farmer who will bring water to the thirsty soil. It is a good deal better than its appearance, as is so much of that part of South Africa, for there is no alkali in the soil to set at nought the effort of the tiller. The vegetation disappears altogether in the hot season; the water in the gullies dries up and the ironstone Kopjes reflect the burning heat from their surfaces as from a mirror. The farmer's dam for the storage of water will put him beyond the reach of all the harm that the summer can do. His flocks will be able to get ample water, and his garden and the fields surrounding his homestead will derive all that may be necessary from the water stored by him. The possibilities of this country are best observed after the spring rains. Then the whole face of the Karroo is

a carpet of wonderful verdure; the flowers spring everywhere. The little farms that looked so cheerless in the summer now peep from their shelter of trees and shrubs, and seem, what in reality they are, the homes of a happy and industrious people. Africa is the land of contradictions and there is in it no greater contradiction than the apparent sterility of the Karroo and its real possibilities of cultivation.

The prevailing summer winds are from the north and northwest. These are generally laden with dust and are exceedingly disagreeable. They are followed as a rule by thunder storms, which pour great torrents of rain upon the thirsty soil and supply a large portion of the moisture. In the night time cool breezes blow from the southeast and make a welcome relief to the discomfort of the day. The rainfall, such as it is, occurs between the months of December and May. In the west the yearly average is about ten inches, increasing to eighteen inches in the east. The winters are bright and clear. The nights are cold, with the thermometer frequently below freezing point, and the mountain tops are frequently covered with snow. The snow, however, never lies on the plains.

The mean daily range of temperature is great, showing a variation of about twenty-seven degrees. The coldest month is July, which has a mean maximum of thirty-six degrees. The hottest month is January with a mean maximum of eighty-seven degrees. Physicians recommend the climate of the Karroo in the winter as being particularly suited to those suffering from pul-

monary troubles, but as the winter season there coincides with the summer season in Europe in point of time, it is somewhat unusual for patients to visit the country at that season.

In the summer the heat is not felt nearly so much as one would anticipate. The dryness of the air seems to prevent the heat from causing that exhaustion which is generally associated with it. It must be admitted, however, that the sandstorms are a real drawback.

The principal towns in this district are: Beaufort West, with an elevation of 2,850 feet; Prince Albert, 2,120 feet, Lillowmore, 2,760 feet; Graaf Reinet, 2,500 feet; Somerset West, 2,400 feet and Aberdeen, 2,850 feet.

THE NORTHERN KARROO

The Northern Karroo stretches inland from the Great Karroo. It has an elevation of from 2,800 to 6,000 feet above the sea level. Of this country the famous Dr. Baird says:

"There cannot be said to be any marked division of the year into spring, summer, autumn and winter; rather, it may be described as a long summer and a long winter. The former begins rather suddenly about the month of September, increases till January and then decreases till the end of April, while the latter may be said to last from the end of April till the month of September."

The chief towns of this district are: Cradock, 2,856 feet (this is one of the principal health resorts in the

colonies and is famous for its dry climate); Queenstown and Tarkastad are two other important places in the same region. Dr. Symes Thompson, in speaking of this district, says that the air is splendidly suited to consumptives, and mentions the fact that a knife may be left for a year on the veldt and not have any rust upon it when taken in. Aliwal North is another famous place for invalids.

Griqualand West is another district of Cape Colony, lying in the Northern Karroo and possessing the same climatic peculiarities, to which reference has already been made. In the Eastern Uplands, the town of Grahamstown is also recognized as a health resort, but the climate is not so dry and does not possess those advantages for the constitutionally weak as do the towns which have been already mentioned.

Basuto Land is the centre from which flow all the important rivers of South Africa. The Tugela, the St. Lawrence, the Vaal and the St. John's are all replenished from the streams which abound in the mountains and valleys of this district. Some of the mountains attain an altitude of 12,000 feet. The scenery is very beautiful and the country has been called the Switzerland of South Africa. The climate of Natal is warmer than that of the eastern provinces, particularly at the coast line. A wind blows in the summer during the day time and dies again at night, and in this respect the climate of Durban very closely resembles that of San Francisco. The ground rises very rapidly from the sea,

as may be shown by the fact that Maritsburg, which is only ninety miles from the sea, is 2,200 feet above the sea level.

The Orange River Colony, formerly known as the Orange Free State, lies to the north of Natal and the Eastern Provinces, at a height of from 4,000 to 5,000 feet above the sea level. The area covered by this country is about 50,000 square miles of plain, nearly entirely devoid of timber, except for scrub brush, such as willow and mimosas along the banks of the streams. The staple industries of this district are horse and cattle raising and sheep breeding. The chief town is Bloemfontein, which is an exceedingly desirable place for those suffering from pulmonary troubles, as the air is mild and dry. Bloemfontein has an elevation of 4,500 feet. For the purpose of the visitor, Kronstad is the best town in the Orange River Colony. It possesses a stream which allows of boating and bathing, quite an unusual luxury in South Africa. It is well wooded, which is also not the rule, and is, hence, most sought after. It is situated on a small tributary of the Vaal River.

The Transvaal lies to the north of the Orange River Colony and is separated from it by the Vaal River, which forms the boundary line and gives to this Colony its name. From the Vaal River the ground rises to the famous Witwatersrand Range, forming a watershed between the Vaal and the Limpopo Rivers. The height of this range is about 7,000 feet above the sea level. To the south of the range the climate is healthy, although

there is a scarcity of good water in parts. Johannesburg is on the southern slope of the range. This is a new town called into being by the industry of mining, which originated in the Rand, upon the discovery of the precious metals and their working by the tremendously powerful companies organized for that purpose. It is a town that owes its inception to the marvelous energy of the British and American settlers and adventurers. The Americans, who have furnished South Africa with a very large proportion of the best skilled mining engineers, have had considerable influence in this part of the country and took part in political movements, with the result that some of them were threatened with death and actually suffered imprisonment for complicity with the Jameson raid, which was an attempt on the part of the foreign residents of the Transvaal to get possession of the government.

Dust storms are very frequent, even in the winter, and this dust settles upon weak lungs, thereby causing inflammation and frequently death. It is an exceedingly good place for people with lung trouble to keep away from. The heat is not so very great, but the rainfall, which is often heavy, renders the muddy roads almost impassable, and, altogether, the place cannot be described as affording much comfort. The inhabitants are well enough aware of this, but they are not there for comfort or because they like it. The pursuit of rapidly acquired wealth is the great incentive which brought them there and still keeps them. And the wealth has

been acquired in Johannesburg in such quantities in a few years as to make the stories of fabbled riches seem ridiculous by comparison. Johannesburg is a town only suited to those who wish to plunge into the troubled sea of speculation who desire to accomplish a speedy fortune. In this sort of thing success is a matter of luck, and the streets of Johannesburg are frequently traveled by the feet of the repentant, who have found that, even here, great wealth is not a matter of certainty, and that if they had remained in quieter and less exciting pursuits, they might have been better off and would certainly have enjoyed a happier and more contented existence.

The best town in the Transvaal for health is Heidleburg. This is very agreeably situated on the southern slopes of the Rand, to the southeast of Johannesburg, at an elevation of about 5,000 feet above the sea level. It is considered the best sanatorium in this part of the country and is much frequented by invalids from Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Pretoria is not at all a healthy town. It has been placed in a hollow and in the winter is a veritable swamp. There is one good feature about the place, however; it has an excellent water supply, a condition, which in the present undeveloped state of the cities of South Africa, is by no means universal. There is a very high degree of heat in the summer and this, coupled with the rainfall, which is at times very heavy, produces a mist not altogether pleasant and quite unhealthy for people with weak lungs. Pretoria has, however, a

really delightful winter climate. The air is fresh and stimulating in the extreme and every requisite for complete enjoyment is to be found. The whole of the northern Transvaal district is healthy during the winter, but it is somewhat liable to malaria in the summer, for the rainy season is at the same time hot, and this renders the climate at times very trying to Europeans, but an Australian or an inhabitant of the United States would not feel it particularly. It is not good to live on low ground in the Transvaal.

Barberton, which formerly has a bad reputation for fever, is now a healthy place, but the region all about it is apt to be malarious, according to European ideas.

In the former pages we have been considering the country from the point of view of one with whom health is the first and most important consideration; who, if not an invalid, is yet obliged to consult his physical condition and who is able to carry on ordinary occupations in his own country. To such an one it has been my object to point out the characteristics of the various districts that he may have some idea as to which is most likely to be kind to his particular malady. He will see that there are great expanses of territory in South Africa which contain within themselves the possibility of his enjoying moderate health and engaging in the ordinary business of life.

This must come as a revelation to those who have been withheld by their sickness from that work which, after all, is the main enjoyment of living. In South

Africa, owing to the pure, clear air of the plateau, the lungs, weary and overwrought with the mists and smoke of our cities, can find that relief which enables them to perform their work effectively, and the whole body strengthened and reawakened by the oxygenation of the blood responds to the joy of living and life takes on a new meaning and a new force.

These results of the South African climate I can bear personal testimony to. I have seen the poor broken down product of the London slum waken to manhood at the touch of the marvelous air of the veldt. If you want to see the finest physiques in the world, the best developed frames and the most majestic gait and carriage, you must go to the colored races of South Africa. To see a young African marching along, head erect and his wonderful chest expanded, his muscles standing out upon his limbs, and his firm stride and lofty, self-respecting carriage, is one of the most striking of sights.

To those who have been accustomed to see the colored man in a position of inferiority, the sight of the colored man on his own soil with the sky above him and his own land beneath his feet is one of the most surprising of sights. It is easy to talk glibly of improvment of the colored people but until you have seen them at home in their own native land you cannot understand how fine they are.

The sight of the colored population would convince any one of the natural healthiness of the place.

A man therefore who wishes to settle in any of the districts which I have named may safely do so and confidently expect to reap the rewards of prudence and industry, rewards which in my estimation are greater than can be obtained anywhere else in the world with an equal outlay.

Portuguese South Africa is decidedly unhealthy for foreigners. Delagoa Bay is the most healthy part and that is unsuited to the average man. Further north the country is swampy and malarious and is a very bad country to the immigrant. But even here some allowances have to be made for the climate is not universally dangerous. It is said on good authority that though the climate is by no means such as to constitute this part of the country a health resort, it is still not so bad but that miners and others need to be deterred from settling there for climatic reasons.

Bechuanaland goes in continuation of the Great Karro north from the Orange River. The elevation of the plain is from four to six thousand feet and their rainfall is about equal to that of the Northern Karro namely about ten inches.

Cereals grows very well in this district. The only drawback is a malaria which sometimes makes itself felt when first the soil is broken, a condition which is not at all uncommon in subtropical countries when the soil is broken for the first time.

There is a scarcity of water in the dry season but a careful use of dams and other means of saving for irriga-

tion would remedy that defect.

On the whole Bechuanaland though a new district is not by any means a discouring one for the immigrant and there will undoutedly be a future in store for this section of the country.

German South Africa is a further continuation of the Bechuanaland plateau — what is generally known as the Khalahari Desert lies between them. There is a smaller rainfall here even than in Bechuanaland. Though the mountains are nearly seven thousand feet in height, yet so slight is the humidity of this district that there are no running rivers, and stranger still the river beds are scarcely more than shallow depressions, although it is said that it is possible to get water from them at a short depth below the surface. Between the mountains and the coast there is a strip of land from fifty to a hundred miles in width which consists of a belt of sand, unhealthy and nearly destitute of water. It thus appears that the German possessions are not such as to invite immigration, and this is the case exactly. It affords a very good explanation of the backwardness of the German colonization. In 1897 I crossed from Portuguese West Territory through the German Territory and over the Kalahari Desert into Cape Colony. I found the desert fairly well timbered, and although I carried water on pack donkeys all the way, I am of the opinion that water can be got in the desert in many places at a very slight depth from the surface.

Territory of the British South African Company covers an area equal to that of the half of all Europe. Its climatic variations must therefore necessarily be great. The railway was completed in 1898 and thus has done away with a long and very toilsome journey. The climate on the whole is very satisfactory. In the highlands the weather is cool and invigorating with frosty nights. It is sometimes hot in summer but as the hot days are generally succeeded by cool nights it really does not render the climate unhealthy. There is not the slightest reason why foreigners should not settle down in this country and enjoy the best of health. There is not the terrible dryness of the Karroo or of Bechuanaland for rainy days occur every month and as in the Transvaal the rainy season is at its height in the summer. The climate can only be endured in the lowlands and valleys during the dry season as the rains and floods render existence on low lying ground exceedingly disgreeable. Draining, however, and the planting of the Australian blue-gum will have a good effect upon the climate in the course of time and the land will become more suitable in every respect for cultivation. The uplands may be described as thoroughly healthy now, and such disease as may occur is nearly always due to a careless mode of living or to a dissipated condition of life. The district where the swamps and standing water are to be found are naturally the most unhealthy, but it can easily be seen that the course of time and the settlement of the country will obviate this drawback.

North of the Zambesi the high plateaux are good places for settlement. The climate is bracing and the whole conditions are suitable. In the lowlands however and in the valleys the tendency to malaria renders the district unsuitable for invalids. Good strong sound men however can live and thrive in any of these districts

A certain amount of attention to one's health is necessary but such is the case everywhere. Undue exposure should be avoided and habits of temperate eating and drinking cultivated. Plenty of good nourishing food should be taken, then the immigrant may easily bid defiance to most of the climatic obstacles in this part of the country. Owing to the altitude, in spite of its nearness to the equator, I have seen thin ice in the months of August and September here, when further south in lower altitudes ice never appears. It may thus be seen how the attitude modifies climate, more so than in the same latitude in Australia or Central America.

Nyassaland includes that portion of the territory of the British South African Company which lies North of the Zambesi. These plateaux have a very fine climate, and the distance and the height above the sea level are no drawback. A clever parallel has been drawn between this part of the country and the northern part of South America and with the city of Bogota in particular, which is a large and flourishing city, although situated at an elevation of more than nine thousand feet and distant from the sea a hard journey of more than three weeks duration.

The rainfall reaches an average of seventy-five inches, January being the month which has the greatest fall.

AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION.

The coast belt of Cape Colony is somewhat sandy and gravelly and is not therefore so prolific of crops as is the Karro district which is probably as fertile as any land in the world. The vast plains of the country are practically untouched and there are tremendous expanses of soil which offer to the cultivator at least as good returns as could possibly be derived from the famous prairie states of this country, if irrigated.

A well-defined wet and dry season is generally admitted to be the most suitable for the raising of cereals. The best wheat-growing district of South Africa is generally conceded to be on the Western slopes of the Maluti Mountains in that part of the Orange River Colony known as "The Conquered Territory". It lies at an elevation of from four to five thousand feet. The average return is estimated at thirty fold but in the estimation of the writer there are many parts where a much better crop may be anticipated for an equal amount of labor. Cereals grow well in the upper parts of Natal but in the lower mid-lands the temperature is too high for these crops, and maize, sugar, vegetables and fruit and tea take their place. This generally applies to all the coast belt to the north of Natal and to

the parts of the interior lying to the north of the Vaal River and at a lower level than from 2000 to 3000 feet above the sea.

The cereals flourish, at all events, north of the Zambesi River all through the districts of this elevation, and they are of excellent quality, in fact African wheat grown in these localities brings just as good a price as any other in the London market.

Maize or mealies as they call it in South Africa is usually cultivated by the side of wheat or oats. Mealies forms the staple article of food in the Cape and the Dutch population relies on it almost exclusively. All fruits and vegetables thrive and those more delicate fruits which have to receive the protection of artifical heat and glass covering in Northern countries thrive easily in the open air at the proper altitude. Peaches and other fruits similar in nature ripen readily and rapidly and preserve an excellent flavor.

When we come to examine the country regarding its capabilities for stock raising we find that the whole of it may be used for that purpose. There is no desert land from Zambesi to Cape Agulhas if we except the shifting sand-dunes of the German South African possessions. It is true that the low valleys of the Transvaal and Mashonaland and Portuguese territory are malarial.

There is a great variation as to the number of animals which can be fed in a given space. The richest pasturage is probably in Matabeleland, Natal, Basuto-

land and a portion of the Orange River Colony, Western Cape Colony, the eastern part of Cape Colony, the Transvaal, Bechuanaland, even German Namaqualand and the Kalahari desert are capable of supporting a vast number of animals and by means of even an elementary system of irrigation might easily sustain thousands more herds than they appear to be at present capable of doing. Central Africa affords excellent stock-raising facilities.

It thus appears that there is every reason to expect that in the course of a short space of time Africa will become a famous agricultural district. The possibilities are all there, possibilities that are really undreamed of except by those who know the country and have travelled over it in such a way as to be able to understand its tremendous resources. The hidden lands, hidden that is from the eye of the casual traveller, which do not go down upon the map, and which are tucked away in little valleys, and sweet dells are innumerable.

Often and often does the voyager as he treks along in his great wagon drawn by the slow moving oxen with sun in his eyes and the pure African breeze blowing around him make up his mind that here he will outspan, take up his little piece of land and remain. The tyranny of the trail is insistent, however, and the wagon moves along to find another such place, but a short distance from the last. This in turn has its temptation and in turn is left behind. But these little

paradises are not so easily disposed of, and the visions of them frequently return to tempt the traveller when he has left them far behind and even when he has departed to another country. The absolute joy and peace of these places can never be forgotten.

Some of the African farms and homesteads are really charming. Where the grass grows green and the dam is kept with its steady supply of water, where the corn grows high and the cattle are sleek, few places any where can show that charm and appearance of tranquil prosperity which is displayed by the African farm.

It is the firm conviction of the writer of this that South Africa to-day offers better inducements for the young agriculturist than any other place in the world. It is a country with a great future before it. It will be a strong and influential part of a tremendous empire before long and will richly reward all those who, pains takingly, assist in hammering out its destiny.

Experience is required as everywhere else and the man who plunges in, ignorant of the country and uninformed as to the best way to further his own interests, agriculturally, is more than likely to pay the penalty of his rashness. All information that is possible is supplied by the Government, and the immigrant may be sure of not being discriminated against. There is an absolute fairness shown by the Imperial Government which all who have seen it must bear witness to. There is a very evident determination on the part of the officials to do their duty and that independent of any conditions of

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race or color. What this means to men of my race may easily be imagined.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

A few words on the geological formation of Africa may be of service to some of my readers at all events. It is remarkably uniform. The plains of the interior consist of sedimentary deposits lying on a foundation of granite or metamorphic rock. There are intrusive dykes known as ironstone in many places. These spreading over and protecting the surface from the weather are frequently the cause of the numerous flat-topped hills which are met with so frequently. In the Zoutpansberg, in Mashonaland, and in Matabeleland where the sendimentary deposits never existed or have been washed away, the dykes seem to have been converted by pressure into schistose belts through which have filtered the mineralizing solutions forming the quartz lodes, which are now being worked for their gold.

In the valley of the Paarl in Cape Colony a portion of the granite bed is exposed and in others the cultivatable land along the coast is largely composed of the detritus which is washed down from the interior.

One drawback to certain portions of South Africa is hailstorms. These sometimes pass over large portions of country and do a great deal of damage. Very little care has been taken to discover any method of meeting

these. They have been taken as entirely unavoidable. In the valley of the Loire, in France, it has been found that large masses of trees serve as a protection from hail to the country lying between them. This, it has been suggested, should be taken advantage of when the time comes for a scientific foresting of portions of South Africa upon a large scale.

Such is a fairly accurate account of natural phenomena as far as can be told in a work of the size of the present, and, short as it is, should serve to give the reader a general notion of the most conspicuous features of the country.

SHORT HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

A little more than four hundred years ago South Africa was discovered by the Portuguese whose navigators were then, as were the adventurers of other countries, on the lookout for an ocean route to India. This effort to find a new route to the Orient resulted in the discovery of the American continent on the one hand and the Cape of Good Hope on the other. The Cape of Good Hope was at first called the Cape of Storms. Vasco di Gama, the discoverer of the cape, after he had named it, passed along up the Coast and came upon the lovely country of Natal on Christmas day, whence he called it. He sailed right up the coast and reached Delagoa Bay. This is the only part of the Portuguese possessions which now remains in the hands of the original discoverers. From

there the discoverer passed over to the shores of India and thus found the new route which he had set out to seek, so that, originally, Portugal was the owner of South Africa.

Holland took these possessions from Portugal in the course of the next century and established herself as the dominant power of South Africa. The following century saw the downfall of Holland as a power and the rise of the new force of England. The whole of Western Europe was a scene of turmoil and strife, and there emerged from the confusion the gigantic figure of Napoleon, with England grappling with him and endeavoring to overthrow him. This, thanks to the new machine industry which enabled Great Britain to produce wealth faster than Napoleon could destroy it, she eventally succeeded in doing, and the great emperor fell, leaving Great Britain, in spite of the loss of the American colonies, practically master of the world. These conflicts were not without influence upon South Africa. Here the Hollander colonist, unprogressive and caring only for the tending of his flocks and the ministering to his comfort of a subject native race, lived a life untouched by the fight going on in the world outside, a condition, however, from which he was destined to be soon rudely awakened. In 1795, Great Britain took the Cape of Good Hope from Holland—in this case, merely as a precautionary measure, in order to save it from the French, for in 1802 she returned it to Holland. In 1814 a final transfer of the country was made by Holland to

England, by which England agreed to pay thirty million dollars for all the Dutch possessions in South Africa. The bargain was made and England paid over the cash to Holland and received in return these African possessions, which have ever since remained as British colonies. A migration of British took place to South Africa upon the annexation of the country. This invasion of Dutch soil was made by a people altogether the reverse of the Dutch in character. They were as energetic and progressive as the Dutch were retrogressive. They had no particular love for the herdsman's form of living and took more naturally to commercial pursuits and the tilling and farming of the land. They formed steady and fixed communities and did not adopt the nomadic life of the Dutch. Thus there grew up in South Africa two entirely different races with altoghter different notions of life. The one progressive, and perhaps somewhat arrogant in the consciousness of its progressiveness, the other slow, and resentful of the enterprise of the other, full of suspicion, and apt to brood over fancied wrongs. These race differences combined with governmental mistakes to bring about one of the fiercest wars of modern times nearly a century after the occupation of the country by the English.

It was in this entire difference of national character that those seeds of misunderstanding and hatred were sown which produced a crop of bloody strife, and which have caused so much ruin and desolation. They lived side by side, but they could not make one people. The

English came in, founded their settlements, and began to improve things, but the Cape Hollander could not tolerate improvement, and as the settlements grew in size and in importance, trekked off, further and further, into the wilderness driving his flocks and herds before him and remaining true to his old nomadic and pastoral life.

In the course of time, the Dutch farmers trekked over into what is now known as Natal and before doing so issued a manifesto in which they declared that they had severed their connection with the British government. They founded a republic and began to make war upon the natives. The constant disturbance of the native races might have easily led to a race war which would have endangered the safety and stability of South Africa. Accordingly the British government took a hand in the business and after defeating the Boers took possession of the country and made Natal a British Colony, a colony the loyalty of which has recently been shown in war, as it was invaded and a large part of it overrun by the enemy.

The Boers or Dutch farmers having been driven out of Natal, for they would not remain under a settled and modern form of government, went to the country in the Orange River district, and there began the same course of conduct with the natives as had distinguished them in Natal. They were driven out of this district again, in consequence, and crossed the Vaal River into what is known as the Transvaal where they set up a govern-

ment and being remote from the British colonies remained to follow their own devices.

The occupation of these territories by the British was an expensive matter which involved much trouble to the mother country, and was only carried out because the practices of the Boers with regard to the natives kept affairs in a continual state of agitation which was menacing to the safety of the community. In 1852 what was called the Sand River Convention was held. According to the terms of this convention the Boers agreed to give up the practice of slavery and to behave in such a manner to the native population as not to outrage the fundamental conceptions of right and justice.

In 1854 the Boers of the Orange River territory agreed to the same terms and the Transvaal and Orange Free State were created as two independent Dutch Republics, that is independent, as far as the internal administration was concerned. But things were in an unsatisfactory condition in spite of this arrangement. The Boers would not live up to their agreement respecting the natives and kept invading native territory, burning native villages, and carrying off the native children into servitude until at last the native races would no longer endure the tyranny and rose in anger.

Secocoeni, the great leader of the Bechuanas took the field and waged successful war, then other tribes joined in and notably Cetewayo, the Zulu chief, so that the colony was threatened with destruction, and the English Imperial government took the field.

So strong was the native hatred against the Boers and so completely was the country threatened with ruin that Sir Theophilus Shepstone, the English envoy, and Mr. Burgess, the president of the Boer Republic, agreed that the only thing which could benefit the country was its occupation by the British, and 2,500 burghers petitioned for annexation to England. So the Transvaal was annexed and the war with the natives which followed ended in the pacification of the country.

The rest of the story is known to all my readers. It is too recent and has been written in letters too plain to read not to be the property of all of you. It is written in blood and fire. The sword has carved it out and the deadly fire of cannon and rifle has burned it into the imperishable granite of history. The dread, the suffering and the anguish of the past two years are known only to those who have seen them, to those who have borne an active part in the fray. The end of it is near, however. The time must necessarily be but short until the last shots shall have been fired and South Africa shall have entered upon her course of reconstruction and recreation.

There will arise a South Africa by the side of which the old shall seem but a bad dream. The time will come, and soon, when every man shall feel himself free, as every other man, and the whips and slavery practiced upon the colored people shall at least cease to plague and annoy them.

It will be found in South Africa, as elsewhere, that the Imperial government is the friend of the colored man—that he will be able to enjoy under the ægis of the British Empire rights which he cannot obtain in other parts of South Africa. If he gets the right of suffrage, and in the course of time he will get it, he will find that he will be able to exercise it free from the insults of his fellow citizens and that no one dare, on the pretense of discriminating against his color, deprive him of those rights which have been conferred upon him by special legal enactment.

The establishment of the British Empire throughout the whole of South Africa means that the color mark will be no impediment to the rise of the colored races, or such of them as show sufficient capacity, to the very highest offices in the church and the state. Education will come as the government becomes settled, and the colored people will, as far as in them lies, be free to all that can be obtained for them in the direction of modern culture and education, and, as a result, we shall see, for the first time in the history of the world, a people fresh from the soil sprung, as it were, immediately from prim eval conditions into the very highest and the best that modern life can bestow.

There is very little doubt on the part of those who are aware of the capabilities of the colored people and their wonderful adaptability that the African races will seize the opportunity presented to them and will gradually come to be a more and more important figure in the history of nations. Such is no doubt the hope and the

desire of the builders of the British Empire who have always shown a most praiseworthy endeavor to do the best that has lain in their power for the native people.

It is impossible to deny that mistakes, and grievous ones have been made, but the fundamental intention has been of the highest and no one is better aware of that than the native races of South Africa. Their attitude in the war has shown that completely. It has required much prudence on the part of the British authorities to prevent the native races coming actually to their assistance.

The tribes have shown no hesitation about declaring their preferences. This in itself speaks volumes for the efforts of the Imperial government and is a conclusive proof that the natives recognize as fully as anyone else where their best interests have lain.

To colored people in my humble opinion South Africa offers the best opportunity in every way that has ever yet been given. As one of the race who sympathise heart and soul with all its best aspirations I have not the slightest hesitation in stating that I consider that country in every way the best field, not only as regards its agricultural and commercial prospects, but as far as concerns the highest interest of the individual.

Of course in recommending the country I do so on the assumption that those who accept the recommendation to go there will go to work. Rewards in South Africa do not come to the lazy and the shiftless any more than they do to such people anywhere else, but South Africa

does unmistakeably hold out her hands with the promise of plenty to those who go in the proper spirit, intending to work resolutely and to hold up the best that is in them and in their race. Of that I do not think that there can be the slightest doubt, and I feel sure that the weight of authority in South Africa would support them in this matter. The country is new, its resources as the reader may easily judge from what has already been said are practically inexhaustible. The promise is infinitely beyond what I have been able to tell you in these short pages, and the future is rosy with promise.

South Africa has not yet begun to live. When peace has returned, when the Imperial government is one and all supreme we shall see such an awakening as has never yet manifested itself in that country and the epoch of the development of its resources will have really begun.

INTERESTING PARTICULARS ABOUT TREKKING NORTH

Interview with Mr. Geyser

A representative of the Bulayo *Chronicle* had an interview with Mr. L. Geyser, one of the signatories to the letter sent to the Deputy Administrator, a copy of which appeared in last Friday's issue, giving details of the expedition undertaken by several farmers in March last to Sincolumi's Land, some 150 miles north of the Zambesi

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in a line almost direct north of Bulawayo. The object of this letter, it may be remembered, was to ascertain whether the British South Africa Company would be able to extend their protection to the proposed settlers. Mr. Geyser, who is practically the leader of the expedition, imparted some interesting details of the journey, the nature of the country the party intend to settle in, etc. Mr. Geyser and the other farmers to whom the paramount chief N'Shetta (Monza) has granted farms free of charge, are setting out on their journey to their new homes on or about the 15th August, and they intend taking their families up with them. The party will probably be joined by new members who are desirious of accepting the chief's offer, and are willing to comply with his requirements as to settling down and cultivating the land themselves. N'Shetta, who appears to appreciate the value of having the resources of his country developed by white men, informed Mr. Geyser that he would welcome any white men who came up with a view to settling in the country and cultivating it, and gave the latter *carte blanche* in the matter of bringing up suitable white men, to whom farms would be granted. As regards the duration of the trip up, Mr. Geyser said that it would take them at least two months to get up with their trek wagons, as the road for the greater part of the journey is very bad indeed. The route to be taken is almost due north from Bulawayo, crossing the Shangani River and then on across the Zambesi to a distance of some 150 miles. It is satis-

factory to note that Mr. Geyser's experience of this route is that no difficulty in obtaining water is to be encountered; and with regard to the nature of the country where it is proposed to settle and its inhabitants, he says that the former consists for the most part of high veld, which is eminently, in his opinion, adapted to the raising of cattle and sheep, but more especially for the Cape bastard sheep and goats. As a grain-growing country it appears also to be admirably suited. The natives are most friendly towards white men. N'Shetta stated that the occasion of the visit of Mr. Geyser's party was the third time only that white men had come into his country within the memory of any of the inhabitants; the first party came up many years ago in his father's time, and the second some time last year. The inhabitants appear to be wealthy in cattle and prosperous generally, and this bears out Mr. Geyser's opinion as to the capabilities of the country. Our informant anticipates no difficulty in the new settlers being able to stock their farms with cattle, etc. obtained by barter with the natives. Sincclumi's country appears to be a sportsman's paradise. The party came across wildebeest, zebras, hartebeest, eland, sable, bastard gemsbok, and a quantity of smaller game. In addition they saw the spoor of buffalo and giraffe, and on frequent occasions they heard lions and met with their spoor, but these carnivora caused no trouble whatever, due probably to the abundance of game. Whether the British South Africa Company promise protection or

not to the settlers in their new home, the latter intend to go up, as they are of the opinion that there will be little risk. The whole party received very kind treatment at the hands of the natives when they arrived in the country suffering severely from Zambesi fever contracted through their having gone up in the early part of the year. Mr. Geyser and another member of the party had to be left behind when the remainder started on their return journey, and they were treated with the greatest consideration.

SLAVERY IN SOUTH AFRICA

From the beginning of their occupation of the country the Dutch settlers had practiced slavery, and that of the very worst description. As early as the year 1658 this practice was legalized by their legislative body; henceforth, it was perfectly lawful for the Dutch to hold slaves and they were protected to the utmost in their property rights. Henceforward the relations of the Dutch with the natives were full of the most horrible cruelty. Raids were made continually on the inoffensive tribes, their villages were burned, their flocks destroyed, and they themselves driven out as prisoners and slaves. They were denied the most elementary rights. The treatment of the slaves by them was brutal in the extreme. They exported them for sale in foreign countries as well as used them for their own farms and the care of their stock. This practice went on unchecked for a period of two hundred and fifty years, and every attempt to miti-

gate the barbarities of the trade was met by them with resentment, as if it were an invasion of their rights.

In 1833 the British Parliament passed an act by which it was provided that from and after the first of January, 1834, the holding of slaves should cease absolutely and entirely throughout the British dominions. On that day therefore, some 40,000 South African slaves were set free. The greater number of these, by far, were held by the Dutch. $5,000,000 was voted from the Imperial Treasury as compensation to those farmers whose slaves were emancipated under the act. This emancipation of the slaves caused much ill feeling among the Dutch, who resented it exceedingly, and several mistakes were made in the matter of the distribution of the compensation money, so that great irritation arose among them, and this led in its turn to the first trek into Natal and the establishment of a republic there, the fate of which I have already described. Here, however, the Dutch still pursued their ill treatment of the native races.

LIBERIA, THE COLORED REPUBLIC

The Hon. William H. Beard, minister resident and consul general of the United States to Liberia, has written an exceedingly interesting account of that country. From the introduction to his work the following is taken:

"LIBERIA (liberty) is situated in West Africa between 4°20′ and 7°20′ north latitude. It was founded

in 1822 as an asylum for the liberated and free blacks of North America, by the American Colonization Society in the United States—an organized expression of the Christian philanthropy of that county.

"The first pieces of land bought from the natives were a small island, known as Providence Island, lying in the Messurado river, near its month, and the Cape Messurado, on which Monrovia, the capital city, now stands.

"Every succeeding year the society sent out, in chartered vessels, people of color, as they were liberated by their masters in America and who desired to return to their ancestral home. The increase of population made it necessary for the acquisition of more territory, hence the boundary of the colony was, from time to time, extended to 600 miles of sea coast and 250 miles interiorwards. Since, however, the French took the Cavalla country, the sea coast is reduced to 509 miles.

"This home was not founded simply as a refuge from the bitter oppression of America, to which the colored man was subject, but that an opportunity might be given them on the soil of their fathers, to exercise their God-given powers in developing real manhood in every sense of the word; and also that they might teach their brethren in Africa the way back to God.

"The government of the colony was for the most part in the hands of white men sent out from America by the society, with the title of governors until it was declared a republic. Then, and until now, colored men have ruled.

"The aborigines, being superstitious, and further, be-

ing demoralized by unprincipled Spaniards, who at that time carried on a lucrative traffic on the west coast, in that curse of curses, slavery, naturally resisted the colonists for a long time. They could not readily conceive that the settling of these people in their midst would be beneficial to them. Having no moral conception of the terrible misery they were entailing upon their people by selling them, they thought only of the seeming gain that was accruing to them by the traffic, and hence they were prepared to resist any and every agency that would have a tendency to undermine the nefarious barter. The colonists, however, strugged on to maintain power and prestige, enduring untold hardships and sufferings, the contingencies of war, poverty and inexperience, until they were masters of the situation. The result of their sweat, blood, tears and prayers is the republic of Liberia, the only free and independent home that the colored can call his own in all Africa.

"This republic was founded in 1847 after the colony had existed twenty-five years. The society withdrew its supervision and left the people of the colony to their own government, and on the 26th day of July of the year named they declared themselves a free and independent nation. Since the declaration of independence, the republic has been recognized by and is in treaty stipulation with all the powers of Europe and the United States of America.

"England was the first to extend the hand of fellowship to Liberia as a nation.

"The republic is modelled after that of the United States of America, having three co-ordinate branches of government; viz., executive, legislative and judicial. The executive is composed of the president and his cabinet; the legislative, of a Senate and House of Representatives; the Judiciary, of the supreme and superior courts.

"The republic is divided into four counties; namely, Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Sinoe and Maryland, and the counties are divided into towns and villages. There are many denominations in Liberia, endeavoring to do Christian work on apostolic lines. They build their own churches and the ministers preach the gospel and support themselves with their own hands. One denomination alone has founded thirty-one churches and three schools for the training of the youths of the country; others are doing more or less, according to their ability. The government partially supports about forty-six schools that are open to all without charge:

"Liberia is struggling to maintain its existence and to hold up the light of Christianity to its own people through poverty and inexperience. For forty-nine years it has existed as a nation, and during that time thousands of the aborigines have been brought under the influence of Christianity and civilation, and to-day they are clothed and in their right minds and enjoying Christianity.

The most northerly point of Liberia is Cape Mount. This is a mountain lying on the sea but is quite fertile.

Coffee is grown upon it and is covered with prosperous gardens and farms.

On this mountain more fruits are grown as well as vegetables than are consumed during the year. The land shows indications of iron, silver and gold in abundance.

The country is productive of palm oil pysava and palm kernels.

Roysville grows coffee and sugar cane and all fruits and vegetables known to this part of the country.

Brewersville is very fertile, the main product being coffee. The chief minerals are copper and silver.

Virginia is famous for its coffee farms.

DISCOVERY OF OPHIR

LONDON, August 1, 1901.—Dr. Carl Peters, the German explorer, writes to the Times declaring his belief, as a result of his discoveries in South Africa during the last two years, that the country between the Zambesi and the Sabi is the Ophir of Solomon.

From traces of Egyptian civilization, he believes the mining district was originally discovered by Egyptians and that there was an Egyptian colony there before the Phoenicians took the country, between 1000 and 1100 B. C.

He intends at an early date to lay all his evidence before the public.

The Basutos are large wheat growers as well as stock-raisers. They have many tradesmen among them and they possess several industrial schools, in fact they are progressing in industries of every description. It is a complete contradiction of the oft-repeated fallacy regarding inferior races that the Basutos should apparently of their own initiative, have adopted some of the most useful and the best features of civilization. They are a very brave people and maintained their right to the retention of their rifles in spite of the objections of the colonial government on the one hand and that of the Boers on the other. They have shown that they are able to make a wise and discreet use of their power and of their opportunities and in the following of their example by the mass of the original inhabitants lies the hope of the native races and the security and peace of South Africa.

When we consider the native races of South Africa one of their most striking characteristics is their natural and inherent love of music. It is a delight to watch them during the rendering of modern musical compositions. They are absorbed in the pleasure of it. There does not appear to be any doubt that if they had an opportunity they would readily adopt a musical training and might have in their midst the possibilities of actual musical creators. They have however no field for the exercise of their talents, as they have no teachers, and

from my own experience, I feel assured that there are many worse opportunities for teachers of music than are to be found among the colored races. They are docile, obedient, respect their teachers and learn readily. The colored races are by no means sunk in the mire as is so frequently imagined; they are alert, alive, and full of ambition, and the most intelligent, thoroughly aware of the value of civilization. Many of them would be glad to have an opportunity of higher education but the native schools are limited to the third and fourth standards, about the equivalent to our third grade of the same number. Lovedale College, however, and a few other institutions of a similar character in Cape Colony, have taken up higher education, and at these places the native, who can afford to undertake the course, can get all the advantages of modern education.

The great and crying need in South Africa for the native is colored teachers. These would form the best kind of teachers for the colored races and by reason of their racial kinship would be more acceptable than white teachers could ever be. Thousands of colored young men and women are being turned out of the American colleges, full of all the blessings which a higher education can bestow. In Africa thousands of the very pick of the colored race are craving eagerly for an opportunity to acquire even the rudiments of a liberal education. It seems somewhat a pity that they cannot be brought more closely together.

There is so little done for the girls in South Africa that it seems as if a great handicap were being placed upon the future development of the colored people. Socially and educationally the girls of the native races are much neglected. They have no opportunities to get out of the rut of hard and unlovely toil to which they are compelled to submit. They are naturally smart and industrious, but their native gifts are wasted from the lack of a chance to develop them. Very few, indeed, of them ever have the chance of learning skilled occupations and thus they are compelled to a life of exceedingly disagreeable and wearing toil. They have to do the most laborious of tasks. No work is too hard, too dirty or too rough for a native African woman. This is all the more distressing, as the women have had an opportunity of comparing their lot with that of their more favored white sisters and feel the contrast.

It must not be supposed that all, or an overwhelming majority of the colored people of South Africa, are of pure blood. In the Cape Colony they have been in touch with the European element for nearly 300 years, and have mixed with them to such an extent that all shades of color are to be found among them. The native languages of these people have become extinct in the course of time, and they speak Dutch or English—mostly Dutch, however, as the Dutch were the first to amalgamate with the natives.

This discussion of the subject of the position of the native races in these districts may not be altogether

called for by the subject in hand, but we all recognize its importance. It is the thought that lies nearest to the heart of all of us and it is a good opportunity to let you know my views on the subject of the position of the colored races in South Africa.

There is a wonderful future for these people. They have in their hands the destiny of that part of the world. Upon their power to develop, to receive all that modern progress can teach them of culture, and of intelligence, rests the growth of the African people. Never, in the history of the world, has the colored race had such a chance. I feel confident that it will make the very best use of its opportunities. Already it is clamoring for admission to schools and colleges, and step by step it will grow to greater heights of power and responsibility.

When we consider the shortness of the time which the people of South Africa have had, the turbulent history of that part of the country and the newness of everything, it must be admitted that the colored race has shown a wonderful power of adaptation and has made better progress than could have been expected. But, in order to fully grasp what it can do, we must give it more time, peace, a period of relative prosperity and open schools and we shall see such an unfolding of natural powers as we have not anticipated, and the colored race will begin to take that part in the share of the government to which their numbers and the progress of the people entitle them.

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